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In the claims:

Claims 1-19 cancelled

20. (New) A computerized telephony bridge unit, comprising:

an interface for receiving and placing Connection Oriented/Switched Telephony (COST) telephone calls on a COST network;

a second interface for receiving and placing Data Network Telephony (DNT) calls on a data network;

a protocol converter for converting calls between DNT and COST telephone calls; and

a processor for managing operations of the telephony bridge unit;

wherein the processor receives a first call request from one of the COST or DNT networks, to place a call associated with the received call on the network other than the network on which the call is received, and to convert protocols between the associated calls.

21. (New) The bridge unit of claim 20 wherein the COST network is a publicly switched telephony (PSTN) network.

22. (New) The bridge unit of claim 20 wherein the data network is the Internet, and the DNT calls are Internet Protocol Network Telephony (IPNT) calls or voice over Internet protocol calls.

23. (New) The bridge unit of claim 20 further comprising a digitally-stored look-up table relating COST telephone numbers to IP addresses, and wherein the processor is adapted to retrieve specific data from an incoming call, either COST or DNT, and to use the

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retrieved data to access the look-up table to determine an associated COST telephone number or IP address, and to use the associated COST telephone number or IP address to place a call associated with the incoming call.

24. (New) The bridge unit of claim23 wherein the specific data from the incoming call is coded in a portion of an IP address associated with the incoming call.

25. (New) The bridge unit of claim 20 wherein the processor is adapted to receive a DNT call from a caller and to negotiate with the caller to ascertain a COST telephone number to use to place a COST call associated with the incoming DNT call.

26. (New) The bridge unit of claim 25 wherein the bridge unit further comprises an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) unit, and wherein the IVR unit interacts with the caller to ascertain a COST telephone number for a call to be associated with the incoming DNT call.

27. (New) A method for processing the interfacing of telephony connections using different protocols, comprising:

receiving and placing Connection Oriented/Switched Telephony (COST) telephone calls on a COST network;

receiving and placing Data Network Telephony (DNT) calls on a data network;

converting calls between DNT and COST telephone calls; and

wherein a processor receives a first call request from one of the COST or DNT networks, to place a call associated with the received call on the network other than the network on which the call is received, and to convert protocols between the associated calls.

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28. (New) The method for processing the interfacing of telephony connections of claim 27 further comprising the step of retrieving specific data from an incoming call, either COST or DNT; searching a digitally-stored look-up table relating COST telephone numbers to IP addresses; determining an associated COST telephone number or IP address, and using the associated COST telephone number or IP address to place a call associated with the incoming call.